

**LEXINGTON
CONSERVATORY
THEATRE
1977**





LCT LEXINGTON CONSERVATORY THEATRE
Rte. 42 Box 127 Lexington, New York 12452
518-989-6336

June 15, 1977

Dear Friends,

Somewhere back in February, somewhere between the League's New York City production of *Hail, Scrawdyke* (which was so successful here at Lexington) and the beginning of our negotiations with the actor's union, Actor's Equity, something clicked. In the middle of that cold, cold winter, this letter began to take shape. "An open letter to our friends and supporters in the mountains," a little demon in my skull said, "Tell 'em how much work and sweat and love have gone into getting these gifted theatre artists to Lexington."

Into the depths of cold the winter went — we read hundreds of plays, looking for just the right ones. Substance for the audience. Humor. Passion. Intelligence. Style. We wanted it *all*. Months of searching — we found a season. And for another summer, we found it *all*. Great plays, not summer stock wish-wash, but real theatre. Tough, inspiring, fun, crazy plays. Plays for actors and directors to wade into and grab by the horns.

April . . . the demon crooned in my ear, "Tell 'em in the letter, tell 'em about the auditions. Tell 'em about two weeks of fifty actors battling for great parts. Tell 'em about the final audition — five directors auditioning 35 actors for five plays simultaneously for eight hours."

Hundreds of times the demon has spoken as we worked to arrange another summer of the best theatre possible. So here I am, possessed, and the letter is actually happening. So before I miss my chance, I just want to say we have worked hard with care and humor. All we want is to create a special place in these mountains and in your hearts. We hope you enjoy our shows as much as we enjoy making them, because we want you to have it *all*. Thanks for coming. Please come again and bring a friend.

Michael C. Van Landingham
Executive Director



LCT
1977

celebrate

summer!

'LCT
Brings Excellence..'
WINDHAM JOURNAL
SUMMER 1976

'Powerful
Performances
at Lexington'
CATSKILL DAILY MAIL

.....
lexington
conservatory
theatre
.....

JUNE 23 - 26
JUNE 30 to
JULY 3
Thu, Fri, Sat:
8.00 pm
Sun: 2.30 pm

THE TAVERN

by George M. Cohan

the definitive
American farce-
melodrama by
America's genius
of the theatre

JULY 7 - 10
JULY 14 - 17
Thu, Fri, Sat:
8.00 pm
Sun: 2.30 pm

PICNIC

by William Inge

one of America's
great poets of small
town life - 'Picnic'
is a poignant, pas-
sionate summer
romance

JULY 21 - 24
JULY 28 - 31
Thu, Fri, Sat:
8.00 pm
Sun: 2.30 pm

'Tis pitty shee's a whore

by John Ford

the searing tragedy
of forbidden love by
one of Shakespeare's
greatest contem-
poraries

AUGUST 4 - 7
AUGUST 11 - 14
Thu, Fri, Sat:
8.00 pm
Sun: 2.30 pm

The prevalence of Mrs. Seal

by Otis Bigelow

At Last!
The truth behind the
strange goings on at
the Seal Mansion - -
a new American play

AUGUST 18 - 21
AUGUST 25 - 28
Thu, Fri, Sat:
8.00 pm
Sun: 2.30 pm

QUALITY STREET

by J.M. Barrie

'An Epic Fantasy
Romance' by the
author of 'Peter Pan'
and 'The Admirable
Crichton'

TAKE RT.42 TO LEX P.O.

WE'RE ACROSS THE BRIDGE!

William Inge's

PICNIC

Directed by Bill Herndon

— CAST —

(In Order Of Appearance)

MILLIE OWENS	KATE KELLY
HELEN POTTS	MARY E. BAIRD
HAL CARTER	KEN WEISBARTH
BOMBER	DANIEL SCHWEID
MADGE OWENS	SANDS HALL
FLO OWENS	SOFIA LANDON
ROSEMARY SYDNEY	JANI BRENN
ALAN SEYMOUR	ANTHONY CUMMINGS
IRMA KRONKITE	BARBARA KOLSUN
CHRISTINE SCHOENWALDER	WINSHIP COOK
HOWARD BEVANS	JAMES GOODWIN RICE

— CREATIVE STAFF —

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	RICHARD GAMBE
SETS	RICHARD GAMBE
	STEVEN NISBET
	MICHAEL C. VAN LANDINGHAM
LIGHTING	LINNAEA TILLET
	BARBARA EMILY TULLIVER
	WENDY CHAPIN
COSTUMES	LINDA MILIAN
SOUND	JOSEPH LYONS
	JORDAN RUDES
	(PIANO SOLO: JORDAN RUDES)
STAGE MANAGERS	WENDY CHAPIN
	BARBARA EMILY TULLIVER
MASTER CARPENTER	DAVID ROSS DRAIN

Director's Notes

PICNIC

We all have at least one moment in our lives in which to make a very important decision, a move that may change our destiny, whose end we can never know at the beginning of the journey. But it is a journey that each of us must take, if we are to truly experience life. It takes courage, for we must be willing to take the consequences of those decisions. We can't hide from life. It will find us no matter how small, how seemingly removed and secure the world in which we live.

PICNIC speaks to that small voice within each of us that wants to escape our loneliness, our isolation, to soar into a new world of experience and change, to leave the known, the ordinary, the routine, for the unknown, the dream, the new world.

Safe journey, voyager!

MIRIAM LAYN (*Miss Willoughby*) We welcome Miriam Layn who is making her debut as a member of LCT. In the many years prior to this production she has been a Broadway producer, star, and producer of her own radio show sponsored by Dumont TV. Miriam specializes in commercial tapes and narration. She is the author of a book on vocabulary building, *A PLAY ON WORDS*, and currently is a lecturer in the field of etymology at C.W. Post College on Long Island. Miriam will be appearing at the Blue Moon Cafe this summer. She honored us last season by becoming our first Founder.

JOSEPH LYONS (*Music Director*) In addition to organizing and performing *EARFULL*, the series of concerts at LCT this summer, Joseph and his partner Jordan Rudes will be composing the music for *'TIS PITY*, *MRS. SEAL*, and *QUALITY STREET*. Joe began his musical career when at the age of 17 he moved next door to the First Bassoonist of the New York Philharmonic. Having established what a bassoon is, Joe studied the instrument at The Juilliard School where he received a BMS in Bassoon and a Masters in Conducting. Joseph has found himself increasingly drawn to electronic music and he and Jordan have developed a new space-fusion music through their synthesizer band *COMPLEX*. Joseph taught for many years on the college level both at Juilliard and in the CUNY system before forming *COMPLEX* to which he now devotes most of his time. He has spent the last few years writing and composing and last summer composed the music for *THE ENCHANTED*, as well as making his acting debut as the Doctor in that play. Last winter, Joseph composed and performed the music for the League of Theatre Artist's production of *UBU REX*. He and Jordan have completed work on an album with the band *OCEAN STAR*, released this spring. Joseph has recently completed the complicated process of wiring his bassoon through a digital-analog computer and thus is the first synthesized bassoonist in the world.

LINDA MILIAN (*Costume Designer*) Describing herself as "only the costume person," Linda has in actual fact been responsible for not only costumes but the staging and directing in such shows as *OLIVER*; *MUSIC MAN*; *HELLO DOLLY*; and last year, the highly successful *KING AND I*, all produced in high schools on the mountaintop. Linda began sewing out of necessity and found an outlet for her talent when the director of *MUSIC MAN* asked for her assistance. Having graduated from Oneonta State University in Elementary Education, Linda teaches fourth grade at Windham. Above all, Linda is interested in involving students in the production of theatre: she had two student assistant directors for *KING AND I* and hopes to utilize this sharing of experience in all aspects of theatre. In the fall, Linda will be designing costumes for *FIDDLER ON THE ROOF* to be done at Hunter-Tannersville. She will combine students from both Windham and Hunter-Tannersville in *Blythe Spirit* to be produced at LCT this summer.

COURT MILLER (*Freeman*) is married to Barbara Kolsun. He most recently appeared in the New Dramatist's Production of *A NEW WORLD*, played Konstantin in *THE SEAGULL* in the Circle Repertory Company's Director's Workshop and appeared in *VASILY VASILYICH* at the Direct Theatre. He has toured over 25 states with various bus and truck tours and has been seen recently on *GUIDING LIGHT*; *THE DOCTORS*; and *ANDROS TARGETS*. Court raises parakeets, is a bee-keeper and a snorkeller.

STEVEN NISBET (*Governor; Florio; Harry; Valentine*) has just completed originating the lead in *JOCKS*, a new musical presented as a workshop at the Public Theatre. He was also seen this spring in *A NEW WORLD*, produced at New Dramatists. Steven was a company member of the James Joyce Liquid Memorial Theatre and appeared as Bruce Carson on *SEARCH FOR TOMORROW*. He has sung in nightclubs and cabarets from New York to the Caribbean and film and TV credits include *MARCUS WELBY*; *MOD SQUAD*; *ROOM 222* and *HOOKED*. He studied voice with Keith Davis and acting with Uta Hagen. Steven performed the role of Nipple in *SCRAWDYKE* in New York this past winter. As a founding member of the League of Theatre Artists, Steven is Promotion Director and Entertainment Administrator for the Blue Moon Cafe this summer. His energy is an inspiration to all who know him.

JORDAN RUDES (*Associate Music Director*) Jordan studied Piano at The Juilliard School for seven years, as a student of Katherine Parker and of Adele Marcus. During this time he met Joseph Lyons, and together they have developed a new style of music based on a fusion of contemporary rock-jazz and classical styles. A nice twist of fate is that Jordan, who studied Classical Composition from Joseph at Juilliard, is now teaching Joseph the ways of Rock music. Working with synthesizers, from their diverse backgrounds, they have developed a new space fusion music. Jordan is a member of *COMPLEX* and has recently completed work on an album with the band *OCEAN STAR*, released this spring. He is currently working with Joseph on the composition of the scores for the summer plays and *COMPLEX* concerts.

HILDE SCHUSTER (*Public Relations Liaison*) A true friend of LCT, Hilde is currently the publicity chairman for the Mountaintop Historical Society. As a photographer/reporter for the Catskill Daily Mail, Hilde, last year, was responsible for interviews with artists and craftsmen as well as reviewing plays performed on the mountaintop. Hilde has been instrumental in causing an awakening of interest in the arts in Greene County.

DANIEL SCHWEID (*Bomber*) is making his first appearance with LTA and LCT this summer. He last appeared at The Canterbury Theatre as Sancho in *MAN OF LA MANCHA* and as Norman in *STAR SPANGLED GIRL*. A graduate of Northwestern University, Danny studies with Uta Hagen. He loves cooking, old movies and Ella Fitzgerald.

LARALU SMITH (*Sally*) Laralu was most recently seen as Minnie Fay in *THE MATCHMAKER*. LCT audiences will remember her from her performances last summer as Amy in *CHARLEY'S AUNT*, Julia Gibbs in *OUR TOWN*, and Agatha in *FRANKENSTEIN*. Her regional credits include Ruby in *DAMES AT SEA*; Kitty in *TIME OF YOUR LIFE*; and Laura in *GLASS MENAGERIE*. Laralu takes classes with the New York School of Ballet and studies acting with Uta Hagen.

CASSIE SOLOMON (*Administrative Assistant*) Cassie's first (and last) theatrical appearance occurred when she was Publicity Manager for a production of *ROMEO AND JULIET* and Juliet got sick. Cassie went on as Juliet opposite Tony Cummings. Since then she worked with a film distribution company for 4 years and as a production assistant for *THE ENTERTAINER* in Hollywood. She is currently studying theatre and business at Yale University and has a job as research assistant for a public health study being conducted by the government. Cassie's hobbies include Tony, reading and Tennis.

CHERYL THETFORD (*Public Relations Liaison*) Cheryl, who is currently majoring in Psychology at Stony Brook, on Long Island, has offered her services to LCT and will be assisting with subscriptions and advertising. A member of the Greene County community, she has aided Linda Milian in all aspects of theatre, from costumes to scenery to props and as assistant stage manager for *OLIVER* produced on the mountain. In addition to her work for LCT, Linda is doing volunteer work at the Greene County Mental Health Center and may be seen smiling and waiting tables at Thetford's in Windham.

DEK TILLETT (*Guest Artist*) Dek Tillett owns a silk screen plant in Hillsdale, New York. He studied in Nigeria. With Kathy Jacobsen, he has designed the set for *'TIS PITY SHEES A WHORE*.

BARBARA TULLIVER (*Stage Manager*) Learning

KEN WEISBARTH (*Sheriff, Hal, Assassin*) Ken hails from Bowling Green State University. While there, he appeared as Roger in *ENTER LAUGHING*, Marco in *VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE*, George in *OUR TOWN*, and Butley in *APPLAUSE*. Since graduating last year, he has taken a workshop in voice and movement with Arthur Lessac, and currently studies acting at HB Studios. His interests include baseball, football, and ice hockey which he played in high school and college, as well as all other forms of athletics.

STEVEN PATTERSON (*Director - TAVERN; Giovanni*) Steve was last seen as the entire Russian Army in the League of Theatre Artist's New York production of *UBU-REX*, repeated as a Provos Project this summer. Steve's directing credits include *THIS PROPERTY IS CONDEMNED* and *BILLY THE KID* at South Coast Repertory, where he was also seen as Jamie in *HOT L BALTIMORE*; Hickie in *PAVLO HUMMEL*; and Stan Laurel in a silent comedy called *THE CLOWNS*. An innovative genre of theatre, silent comedy - similar to silent film - was formulated by Ronald Boussom, and Steve will be returning to California to assist Mr. Boussom with his new silent comedy, *THE CROSSROADS*, which is to be made into a film. Steve will also run the workshop program at SCR. Steve has trained with Herbert Berghof and studied verse with Aaron Frankel. In addition to being an avid jogger, he is a Buster Keaton and Dracula Freak.



**THANK YOU
GREENE COUNTY —**

From All Of Us —

L.C.T.

